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MARVEL COMICS GROUP

CIVIL WAR II

I'VE SEEN THE FUTURE AND SOMEONE IN S.H.I.E.L.D. IS GOING TO *DIE!*
LAND + Keith
NOT A HOAX! NOT AN IMAGINARY TALE! ONE OF THEIR OWN WILL DIE IN MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.:
FALLEN AGENT
WHICH BELOVED CHARACTER WILL PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE? DON'T MISS THIS EXPLOSIVE FOUR-PART TELEVISION EVENT!

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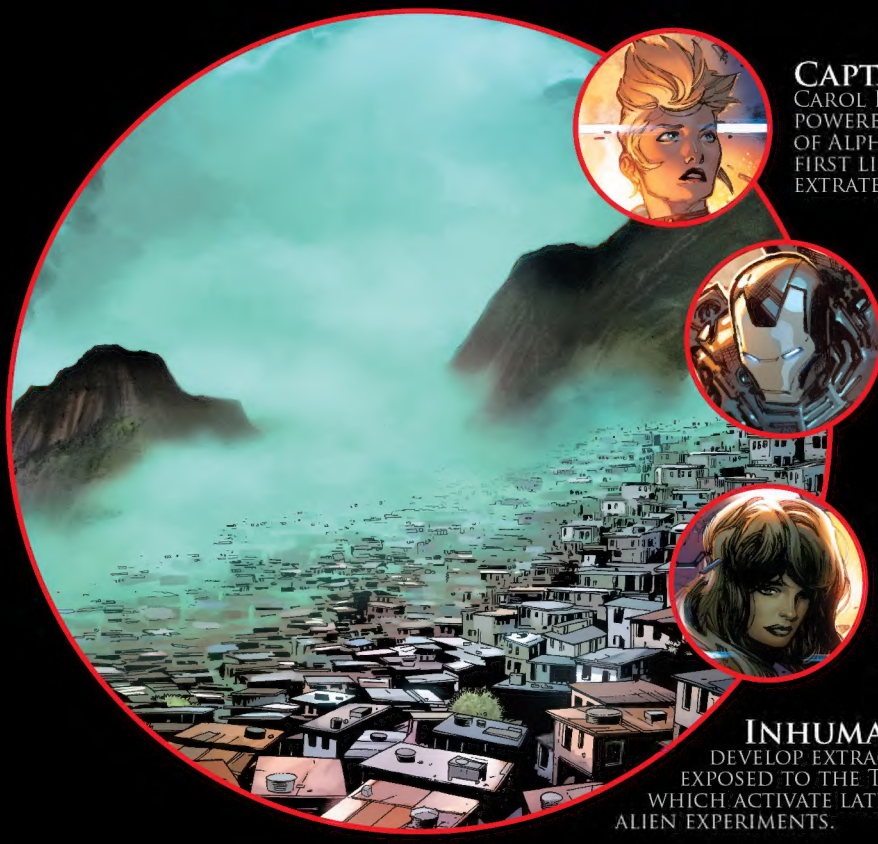

CAPTAIN MARVEL: CAROL DANVERS. COSMICALLY-POWERED SUPER HERO, LEADER OF ALPHA FLIGHT. EARTH'S FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST EXTRATERRESTRIAL ATTACK.

WAR MACHINE: JAMES "RHODEY" RHODES. DECORATED U.S. MARINE IN FLYING, WEAPONIZED ARMOR MADE BY HIS BEST FRIEND, TONY STARK.

SHE-HULK: ATTORNEY JENNIFER WALTERS. IMBUED WITH THE SAME GAMMA-POWERED SUPER-STRENGTH AS HER COUSIN, BRUCE BANNER.

INHUMANS: PEOPLE WHO DEVELOP EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES WHEN EXPOSED TO THE TERRIGEN MISTS--GASES WHICH ACTIVATE LATENT DNA FROM LONG-AGO ALIEN EXPERIMENTS.

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NEW YORK CITY COURT.
MISS WALTERS?
CLOSING STATEMENT?
THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.
WE LIVE IN A CRAZY WORLD.
WE LIVE IN A WORLD OF COSTUMED HEROES, COSTUMED VILLAINS, MUTANTS, INHUMANS...AND EVERY DAY SCIENCE FICTION COMES CLOSER TO SCIENCE FACT.
AND EVERY DAY, CORRUPTION AND A LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY SEEM TO BE CHOKING US ALL TO DEATH.
BUT IT IS AT THESE TIMES THAT WE AS A PEOPLE MUST NEVER FORGET THE VALUES THAT WE HAVE ALL SWORN TO UPHOLD.
MY CLIENT, JONATHAN POWERS, IS NOT GUILTY.
HE DID NOTHING WRONG.
YES, HE ONCE LIVED A CRIMINAL LIFESTYLE...AND A FLAMBOYANT ONE, AT THAT...
BUT HE HAS SERVED HIS TIME FOR ANY AND ALL OFFENSES.
AND NOW, WHAT THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO...IS PUNISH HIM FOR THINGS HE DID NOT DO.
HE DID NOT ROB, STEAL OR EVEN THREATEN ANYTHING OR ANYONE.
WHAT THE FEDERAL PROSECUTOR WOULD LIKE YOU TO DO IS SEND HIM TO PRISON FOR TALKING.
HE WAS "TALKING SHOP" WITH FORMER ACQUAINTANCES, OR SO HE THOUGHT.
WHAT WE HAVE DISCOVERED, THROUGH THE PROSECUTOR'S OWN ARGUMENT, IS THAT JONATHAN POWERS WAS TALKING TO AN UNDERCOVER FEDERAL AGENT AND A PAID INFORMANT WHO WERE ACTIVELY SEEKING TO ENTRAP MY CLIENT.
ENTRAPMENT.
"TO TRAP."
AND IF THEY SET A TRAP AND COME UP WITH NOTHING...
...THEN WHAT HAPPENS?

WELL, THEN, THEY HAVE TO ANSWER FOR THE TIME AND MONEY SPENT.
YOUR TIME AND YOUR MONEY.
SO THEY DUG IN AND TRIED TO WRAP A CASE AROUND MY CLIENT, HOPING THAT HIS PAST PUBLIC FLAMBOYANCY WOULD MAKE A HELL OF A SHOW FOR YOU FINE PEOPLE.
BUT, NOW THAT THE SHOW IS OVER, WE KNOW...HE DID NOTHING.
HE "TALKED SHOP."
HE TALKED ABOUT THE "GOOD OLD DAYS." HE WONDERED WHAT HE WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY.
HE NEVER PUT ON HIS COSTUME. HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE IT ANYMORE.
HE DID NOT PLAN A HEIST, A KIDNAPPING OR A MURDER.
HE WAS...JUST TALKING.
AND THAT IS WHY I AM SO ADAMANT IN MY DEFENSE OF JONATHAN POWERS.
BECAUSE WE AS A SOCIETY HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT PUNISHING PEOPLE FOR THOUGHT.
THIS IS STILL THE LAND OF THE FREE.
AND THAT FREEDOM MEANS FREEDOM OF THOUGHT.
FREEDOM OF ALL THOUGHT.
OF ALL IDEALS.
IN THIS CRAZY WORLD, WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR EMPATHY FOR THE HUMAN, INHUMAN AND MUTANT CONDITION NO MATTER WHAT.
NO MATTER WHAT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIKE MY CLIENT. I'M, FRANKLY, NOT THAT CRAZY ABOUT HIM.
BUT WE *CAN'T* ARREST SOMEONE BECAUSE WE DON'T LIKE WHAT THEY *THINK* ABOUT.
WE CANNOT PUNISH SOMEONE FOR A CRIME THEY DID NOT COMMIT.
WE HAVE TO ALLOW FOR REHABILITATION.
WE HAVE TO *ALLOW* FOR SOMEONE TO PAY THEIR DEBT TO SOCIETY.
WE HAVE TO ALLOW FOR FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, BECAUSE IF WE DO NOT...
...WE ARE NOT A FREE PEOPLE.
THANK YOU.

LATVERIA.
MY NAME IS COLONEL JAMES RHODES OF THE UNITED STATES MARINES!
DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER!
LATVERIA IS UNDER UNITED STATES PROTECTION UNTIL A PRELIMINARY DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED!
ANY ACT AGAINST THAT IS AN ACT OF GLOBAL TERRORISM!
PUT YOUR WEAPONS DOWN!
VLASHTONI!
CASKSANI ARMOUR NAKANI!
LAST WARNING.
VLASHTONI!
VLASHTONI!
THANK YOU.
"NICE WORK, COLONEL RHODES.
"WORLD CLASS."

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM.
THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.
SO YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I CALLED YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE--
SITUATION ROOM.
I WANTED PRIVACY. THE OVAL OFFICE IS GRAND CENTRAL STATION.
NO ONE COMES IN HERE... UNLESS ALL HELL IS BREAKING LOOSE.
IT ALSO REMINDS ME OF THE BIGGER PICTURE.
THE *MUCH* BIGGER PICTURE.
OKAY, *UH*, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR?
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HOW ABOUT *YOU* BECOME MY NEW SECRETARY OF DEFENSE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR OLD ONE?
HE'S NOT YOU.
HE'S NOT A LARGER-THAN-LIFE SYMBOL OF THE POWER OF THE AMERICAN IDEAL.
AND I THINK *YOU* COULD DO THE JOB IN YOUR SLEEP.
WOW.
I DID NOT EXPECT THIS.
I KNOW. AND *YET*, I CAN TOP IT.
BECAUSE I AM ACTUALLY OFFERING YOU THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AS YOUR FIRST STEP ON THE ROAD TO *THIS* JOB.

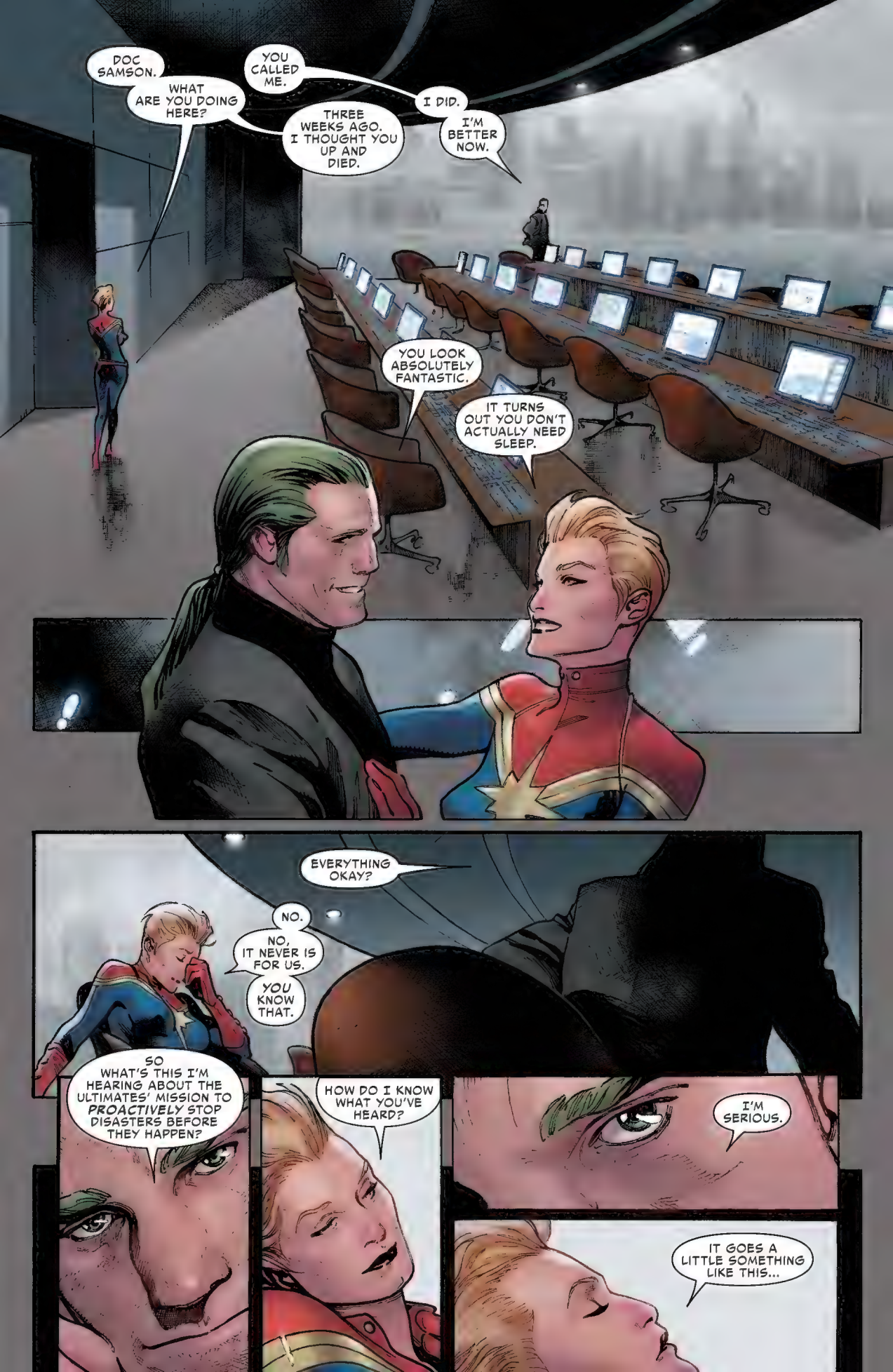
THIS--
YOU MEAN *YOUR* JOB?
FOR THE PARTY.
FOR THE COUNTRY.
EVENTUALLY, ONE OF YOU "*SUPER HEROES*" IS GOING TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT.
ONE DAY, YOUR LITTLE BUDDY TONY STARK IS GOING TO WAKE UP AND DECIDE *HE* SHOULD BE PRESIDENT.
AND HE'S GOING TO RUN AROUND THE COUNTRY AND *BUY* HIS WAY IN.
I KNOW HE'S YOUR PAL, BUT I WOULD *MUCH* RATHER IT BE YOU.
YOU'VE *SERVED* THIS COUNTRY. YOU'VE SERVED THE WORLD.
I KNOW THAT ARMOR IS SOMETHING SPECIAL, BUT ANY PRO ATHLETE NEEDS TO HANG IT UP EVENTUALLY AND PLAN THEIR SECOND ACT.
TAKE IT FROM ME, COLONEL.
THIS IS A PRETTY GOOD SECOND ACT.
AND IT'S YOURS IF YOU WANT IT.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY.
WORST THING SHE CAN DO IS SAY NO.
IF SHE SAYS NO, SHE SAYS NO.
IS THAT IT?
THAT'S NOT IT.
OF COURSE IT'S IT!
I MEAN, I THINK THAT'S IT.
UH, MICHELLE?
OH, HEY, ULYSSES.
SO CLASS ROYALLY SUCKED TODAY, HUH?
WELL, SHE IS THE WORST PROFESSOR ON CAMPUS.
SO, LISTEN, THIS--THIS MIGHT SEEM OUT OF THE BLUE, BUT I WAS WONDERING--
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT'S HAPPENING?
WHAT?
"WHAT?"
HAVE YOU BEEN UNPLUGGED ALL DAY?
LOOK!

THE TERRIGEN IS HERE.
THE CLOUD.
THAT'S IT? THAT'S REALLY IT?
DUDE, WOULDN'T IT BE CRAZY IF ONE OF US WAS AN INHUMAN?
I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST RUMOR OR--
DUDE, IT IS SO SO SO REAL.
AND NOW IT'S HERE.
IT'S HAPPENING!
IT'S HAPPENING!
WAHOO!
WHOA.
DO YOU FEEL IT? I FEEL--OH.
@$@!
UM, SOMETHING IS--

DID IT WORK?!
DID ANYBODY--?
OH, MY GOD.
MICHELLE?
MICHELLE!
SHE'S IN THERE?
MICHELLE!
OH, MY GOD!
WHO'S IN THE OTHER ONE?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
MICHELLE, CAN YOU HEAR ME IN THERE?
SHOULD WE CALL SOMEONE?
I CAN'T EVEN SEE INSIDE!
WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

THE TRISKELION,
HEADQUARTERS AND HOME OF THE ULTIMATES.
CAPTAIN MARVEL ON DECK.
SETTLE DOWN.
STATUS?
NO DISASTERS REPORTED.
DID ALPHA FLIGHT CALL IN?
YES, THEY DID.
DID THEY INTERCEPT THE ALIEN INVASION?
ACCORDING TO THEM, IT WASN'T SO MUCH AN ALIEN INVASION AS A HANDFUL OF PARTYING SHI'AR DRUNK OFF THEIR SHI'AR ASSES LOOKING FOR SOME, AND I QUOTE, "PRIMITIVE LOVE."
EW.
YES, MA'AM.
ANYTHING FROM A-FORCE?
NOTHING SINCE THE LAST REPORT.
MA'AM, YOU HAVE A VISITOR IN THE COMMUNICATIONS ROOM.
A VISITOR?


DOC SAMSON.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
YOU CALLED ME.
THREE WEEKS AGO. I THOUGHT YOU UP AND DIED.
I DID.
I'M BETTER NOW.
YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC.
IT TURNS OUT YOU DON'T ACTUALLY NEED SLEEP.
EVERYTHING OKAY?
NO.
NO, IT NEVER IS FOR US.
YOU KNOW THAT.
SO WHAT'S THIS I'M HEARING ABOUT THE ULTIMATES' MISSION TO PROACTIVELY STOP DISASTERS BEFORE THEY HAPPEN?
HOW DO I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE HEARD?
I'M SERIOUS.
IT GOES A LITTLE SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

MY COUSIN HAS A COUPLE OF KIDS. SHE'S A *REALLY* GOOD MOM, AND SHE WAS TELLING ME HOW *EVERY DAY* THEY *ALMOST* ACCIDENTALLY KILL EACH OTHER.

EVERY DAY.

LIKE, SHE TURNS HER HEAD JUST FOR A SECOND, AND ONE FOUND A PAIR OF SCISSORS AND STARTED PRETENDING IT WAS A SWORD.

SHE TURNED HER HEAD FOR ANOTHER SECOND, AND ONE JUMPS ON THE OTHER AND THROWS THEM BOTH OFF A BED.

SHE SAID ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, SHE JUST BARELY AVOIDS DISASTER.

BUT THAT IT HAPPENS *SO OFTEN* THAT SHE'S ALMOST *ALWAYS* IN SOME SORT OF PANIC.

AND I THOUGHT:

THAT'S *OUR* LIVES.

YES!

YES!

THAT *IS* OUR LIVES.

WE HAVE HAD *SO* MANY *TRUE* DISASTER *NEAR* MISSES.

STUFF PEOPLE WILL NEVER EVEN KNOW ABOUT.

AND I THOUGHT *"WHAT IF"* WE AT LEAST *TRY* TO STOP THESE DISASTERS *BEFORE* THEY DROP ON OUR HEADS.

HOW'S ALL THAT GOING?

WE HAVE OUR MOMENTS.

SOUNDS NOBLE.

IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE FIGHTING THE WEATHER.

IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT, TOO.

IS THAT WHY YOU CALLED?

I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE UP TO.

WELL, I STILL HAVE MY PRACTICE.

I'M ATTEMPTING TO BALANCE MY LIFE AS A SUPER HERO *AND* A PSYCHOANALYST.

"A BALANCE IN LIFE."

YOU'RE TALKING CRAZY.

HOW'S *THAT* PART GOING FOR YOU?

IT'S NOT.

WHEN YOU MENTIONED IT-- IT TOOK ME A SECOND TO REALIZE WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT.

A *CIVILIAN* LIFE.

DO YOU MISS IT?

DO I--?

WAIT.

WAIT.

ARE YOU--?

THIS IS A SESSION?

ARE YOU *"DOCTOR"* SAMSONING ME?

JUST TRYING TO SEE HOW YOU ARE.

YOU WERE *SENT* HERE!

YOU HAVE A LOT GOING ON AND SOME PEOPLE JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU'RE DOING.

I'M GOING TO DECIDE NOT TO BE MAD.

YOU *SHOULDN'T* BE MAD.

THIS IS COMPASSION.

COMPASSION IS *ALWAYS* GOOD.

THIS IS *CONCERN.*

YOU SEEM TO BE DOING OKAY.

YOU DON'T WORRY?

ABOUT THE DISASTER WE MIGHT *NOT NEARLY* MISS?

IT'S ALL I THINK ABOUT.

THE ILLUSION OF CONTROL.

IT'LL EAT YOU ALIVE.

I JUST-- WITH ALL THAT WE KNOW...

...WITH ALL THAT WE HAVE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED...

...I JUST WISH THERE WAS *THAT THING,* THAT *ONE* THING, THAT WOULD--

PROTECT US FROM ALL COMERS?

YES.

BUT MAYBE *WE'RE* IT.

MAYBE THAT'S *WHY* WE ARE THE WAY WE ARE...AND WHY WE ARE *WHO* WE ARE.

AND WHAT IF ONE DAY WE'RE JUST NOT ENOUGH?

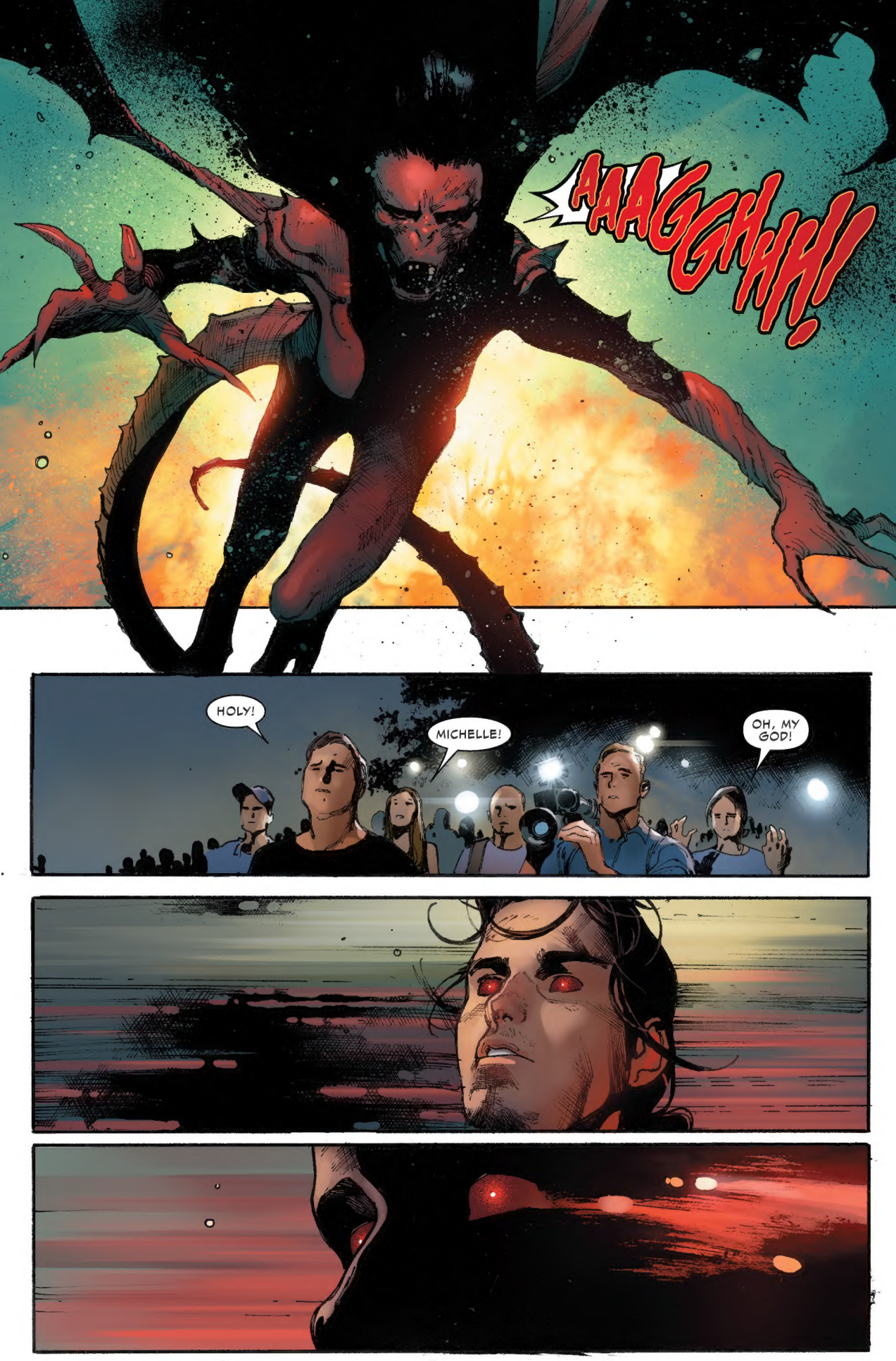
SO FAR, SO GOOD.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE.
PRESENT LOCATION: 1000 FEET OVER DOVER, NEW JERSEY.

MS. WALTERS.
HOW ARE YOU?
I'M FINE, DIRECTOR HILL.
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
UM, I'M FINE.
WHY?
BECAUSE OF, YOU KNOW, THE *JESTER* THING.
...
WHAT?
NOTHING.
ARE YOU OKAY?
IT'S JUST THAT, FIVE WORDS AGO, THIS BECAME THE LONGEST CONVERSATION WE'VE EVER HAD.
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.
IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU, MA'AM?
THE JESTER. JONATHAN POWERS.
OH, THAT? WELL, YEAH. I'M UPSET.
I LOST A CASE.
I'M SURE.
BUT IT IS REALLY HARD TO GET A JURY TO SEE PAST THE IDEA THAT SOMEONE ONCE DECIDED TO DRESS UP LIKE A PLAYING CARD CHARACTER AND ROB BANKS.
IT'S A HARD IMAGE TO GET PAST.
SO YOU'RE OKAY.
I'VE LOST CASES BEFORE... BUT NOW THIS GUY IS IN JAIL AGAIN.
I'M GOING TO APPEAL THE HOLY HELL OUT OF THIS BECAUSE--
JENNIFER... HE'S DEAD.

WHO?
THE JESTER.
ACCORDING TO INTEL--TWO OTHER PRISONERS ATTACKED HIM AND HE FOUGHT BACK, AND--AND THEY SAY A GUARD SHOT HIM.
KILLED HIM.
THE JESTER IS DEAD?
HE WAS INNOCENT.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO BE THE ONE WHO--
HE WENT TO JAIL *BEFORE* HE DID ANYTHING WRONG.
HE WAS A REPEAT OFFENDER.
BUT NOT *THIS* TIME.
HE WOULD HAVE DONE IT AGAIN.
THEY ALWAYS DO.

SHE WAS SO EXCITED TO SEE THE MISTS, NONE OF US EXPECTED THIS.
I JUST HOPE SHE'S OKAY. I HOPE SHE CAN BREATHE IN THERE.
AND DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE OTHER COCOON?
NO, I--
OH, HEY.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ARE YOU INHUMAN?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
COULD YOU TALK TO MICHELLE IN THERE?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
ARE YOU DIFFERENT?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
DO YOU FEEL DIFFERENT?
OH, MY GOD!
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!

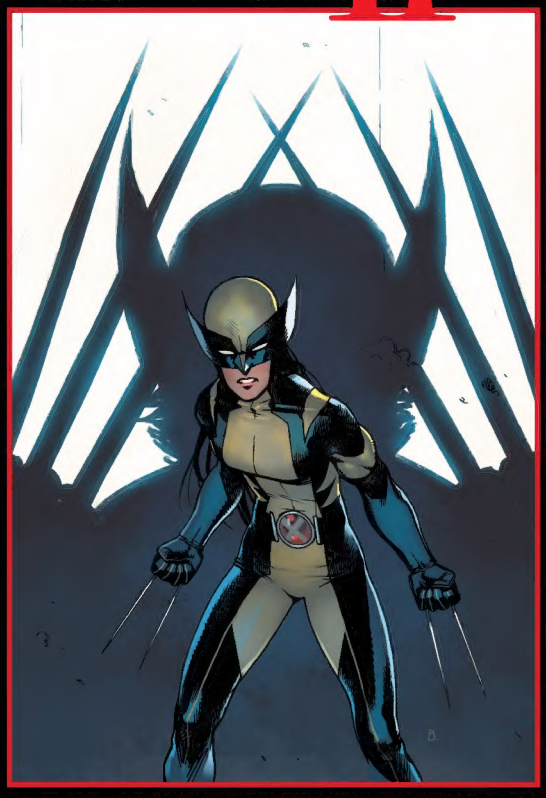

AAAGGHHH!
HOLY!
MICHELLE!
OH, MY GOD!

AGH!
WH-- WHAT?
WHAT IS THIS?
HELLO?
HOW AM I--?
HOW IS--?
DID I DO THIS?
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN...
CIVIL WAR II #1!

THE ROAD TO CIVIL WAR II

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN #9



ALL-NEW WOLVERINE #8

MS. MARVEL #7

THE ULTIMATES #7

IN STORES IN MAY!